

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 06111 301313Z

45

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 112233

R 301025Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5949

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6111

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, CB

SUBJ: SOUPHANOUVONG TELLS SIHANOUK PATHET LAO CANNOT HELP IN
KHMER SETTLEMENT

1. ON APRIL 30 LAO AMBASSADOR VONGSOUTHİ RETURNED COURTESY
CALL WHICH I HAD MADE ON HIM EARLIER THIS MONTH. IN THE
MEANTIME LAO AMBASSADOR HAD GONE TO VIENTIANE FOR LAO NEW
YEAR. WHILE IN VIENTIANE, LAO AMBASSADOR HAD LONG SESSION
WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI
VONGVICHIT WHO ASKED HIM TO CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ME:
DURING PRINCE SIHANOUK'S VISIT
BAGSM NEUA IN MARCH,
SIHANOUK HAD REQUESTED PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG (IN PHOUMI'S
PRESENCE) FOR PATHET LAO ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING DIRECT
CONTACT WITH AMERICANS. AS RELATED BY THE LAO AMBASSADOR,
PHOUMI CLAIMS THAT SIHANOUK POINTED TO LAO SETTLEMENT WHICH
AMERICANS HAD HELPED TO BRING ABOUT AND ASKED
SOUPHANOUVONG TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO ESTABLISH
DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN AMERICANS AND SIHANOUK.
SOUPHANOUVONG DECLINED, PLEADING THAT LAOS IS TOO
SMALL A COUNTRY TO BE INTERMEDIARY AND URGED SIHANOUK
TO TURN TO CHINESE WHO HAVE MORE INFLUENCE WITH AMERICANS.

2. PHOUMI ALSO TOLD LAO AMBASSADOR THAT BEST WAY LAOS
CAN HELP CAMBODIA IS OE PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT LAO
SETTLEMENT WORKS. PHOUMI INSTRUCTED LAO AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 06111 301313Z

TO ADOPT LOW POSTURE IN PHNOM PENH IN VIEW CONTINUATION

OF KHMER CONFLICT.

3. ONLY POSITIVE RESULT OF THIS CONVERSATION WAS AN
INVITATION BY AMBASSADOR FOR A TRADITIONAL LAO KAO PHOUN
DINNER LATER NEXT MONTH.

DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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